

Margate are the next in line

WYCOMBE Wanderers, who reached the fourth qualifying round of the F.A. Cup with Saturday's 3-1 win at Chesham, have drawn Margate at home on November 2. And looking at Margate's record in the Southern League Premier Division this season, the Blues would seem to be in for a hard match.

At the moment the coastal town are lying second in the table, trailing by only one point to the leaders Nuneaton. They have played 14 matches for a total of 18 points. Latest result was a goalless draw away to Telford United on Saturday.

Their side contains no less than eight former professionals and are managed by Les Riggs, who took over from neighbouring Ramsgate three years ago. Margate regard their present side as one of the best for

several seasons and two of their newest signings are striker Carl Gilbert and Dennis Butler.

Gilbert came from Rotherham and cost Margate a club record fee of £2,000.

Margate's league record this term indicates good away-form. They have lost only once away from home. Their full results are: Guildford (A) 2-1, Tonbridge (H) 0-1, Gravesend (H) 2-2, Burton (H) 3-0, Wealdstone (A) 3-0, Gravesend (A) 2-0, Telford (H) 0-0, Dartford (A) 4-3, Yeovil (A) 2-2, Grantham (H) 3-0, Stourbridge (H) 2-2, Romford (A) 1-0, Kettering (H) 1-0, Barnet (H) 1-2, Chelmsford (A) 0-2, Canterbury (A) 2-1, Telford (A) 0-0.

The club's three forwards have all been hitting the target regularly this season. Leading the way is winger Bruce Walker with 11 while Barry Brown has eight and centre forward Gilbert seven.

Secretary Alan Kay, on hear-

ing the draw said: "We would prefer to travel to somewhere like Wycombe rather than an unknown club. We like to play open attacking football away from home which should make it a fine game."

The last time these two teams met was back in the 1956-57 season. Margate came to Loakes Park in the fourth qualifying round and won 4-2. Len Worley and Cliff Trott scored the Blues' goals in front of a 7,200 crowd.

Margate have enjoyed something of a revival this season. They only just avoided relegation last term when they finished 17th from the 22 clubs with a total of 38 points from 42 matches. The complete record was P.42, W.15, D.8, L.19, goals for 56, goals against 63, 38 points.

They did enjoy a good run in the Southern League Cup however, reaching the semi-final

before going out to Bromsgrove. On the way they beat Maidstone, Canterbury, Bognor and Dartford. In the F.A. Cup they made an early exit, losing 1-3 to Rothmans Isthmian Leaguers Leytonstone.

1972-73 was one of the club's best years in terms of cup success. In the first round proper they beat Fourth Division Swansea City 1-0 at home and ended Walton and Hersham's hopes with a 1-0 win at Stompond Lane in the second round, and that after Walton had beaten Exeter City.

In the third round proper they came up against Tottenham Hotspur and went down bravely 6-0 at home.

In previous years Margate have beaten Swansea and Bournemouth and drawn against Crystal Palace, Brentford, Notts County, Walsall and Millwall. However, in 1971, they went down heavily to Bournemouth in the first round.

The final score of 11-0 really hit the headlines as Ted McDougall slammed no less than nine goals in the game.

Looking at the other pairings, the Slough v Sutton match will be interesting, the Rebels having home advantage while in another all-Isthmian tie, Walton and Hersham take on the winners of the Dagenham v Leatherhead replay.

Hayes travel to Southwick while Hendon take on another Southern League side, Maidstone. Barnet meet Hitchin Town at Underhill while Tooting play Harlow or Stevenage at home.

STAND tickets for the Margate match will be on sale at Loakes Park at the following times: Thursday this week 7.30 p.m.-9.00 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-12 noon, next Tuesday 7.30 p.m.-9.00 p.m. Members' reserved seats will be held until next Tuesday.